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Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Second session
Maastricht, the Netherlands, 3 and 4 July 2014
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Opening of the general segment and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the second session

To be held at the Maastricht Exhibition and Congress Centre, Maastricht, the Netherlands, starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 3 July 2014*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the general segment and adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.
3. Promotion and capacity-building:
   (a) Coordination mechanisms and synergies;
   (b) Provision of technical assistance;

* The second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will be held back to back with the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (30 June–1 July 2014). A joint high-level segment under the auspices of the two Meetings of the Parties will take place on 2 July 2014. A provisional agenda for the high-level segment will be provided as a separate document. More information will be made available in due course on the web page dedicated to the two sessions (http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhusmop5&prtrmopp2/main.html).

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(c) Communication tools and materials.

4. Procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the Protocol:

(a) Reporting mechanism;

(b) Compliance mechanism.

5. Programme of work and operation of the Protocol:

(a) Implementation of the work programme for 2011–2014;

(b) Strategic plan for 2015–2020;

(c) Work programme for 2015–2017;

(d) Financial arrangements.

6. Election of officers and other members of the Bureau.

7. Date and venue of the third ordinary session.

8. Any other business.

9. Review and adoption of decisions.

10. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the general segment and adoption of the agenda

Timing: Thursday, 3 July, 10–10:30 a.m.

The Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) will open the session. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to adopt the agenda for its second session as set out in the present document.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the second session (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/3)

2. Status of ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Timing: Thursday, 3 July, 10:30–10:40 a.m.

The secretariat will inform participants about the status of ratification, acceptance, approval and accession with respect to the Protocol. Delegations will be invited to report on recent or anticipated developments concerning the ratification, acceptance or approval of or accession to the Protocol. The status of ratification of the Protocol on PRTRs is available online from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/ratification.html.

3. Promotion and capacity-building

(a) Coordination mechanisms and synergies

Timing: Thursday, 3 July, 10:40–11:40 a.m. (11:40 a.m.–12 p.m. — coffee break)

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider potential areas for cooperation with partner organizations, including United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) multilateral environmental agreements. In that connection, it will be informed of the relevant activities carried out by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Task Force on PRTRs, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and other partner organizations of relevance to the Protocol's work programme.

Documentation

Report on the global round table on PRTRs held in Geneva on 19 November 2013 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/7)

Report on the implementation of the work programme of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2011–2014 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/6)

(b) Provision of technical assistance

Timing: Thursday, 3 July, 12–1 p.m. and 3–3:30 p.m.

Representatives of Parties, Signatories and other interested States, in particular those from countries with economies in transition, and other relevant stakeholders will be invited to share their views on outstanding needs and priorities for capacity-building related to pollutant release and transfer registers.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to take note of the ongoing and planned capacity-building activities and to provide guidance on the future direction of such activities so as to ensure that capacity-building needs are met.

Parties will also be invited to consider and endorse a proposal on activities for the promotion of the Protocol on PRTRs in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as an overall framework for possible areas for bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

Documentation

Proposal on promoting the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/L.6)

Report on the implementation of the work programme of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2011–2014 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/6)

(c) Communication tools and materials

Timing: Thursday, 3 July, 3:30–4 p.m.

The Meeting of the Parties will be informed about recent developments regarding electronic tools at the country level, and will receive an update on the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy, the PRTR.net global portal and the relevant cooperation between ECE, OECD and UNITAR. Parties may wish to discuss, and where appropriate, invite Parties and other stakeholders to support these tools.

Documentation

Report on the implementation of the work programme of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2011–2014 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/6)

4. Procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the Protocol

(a) Reporting mechanism

Timing: Thursday, 3 July, 4–4:45 p.m.

The Chair of the Compliance Committee will present a synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Protocol by Parties. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and review the implementation of the Protocol on the basis of the national implementation reports submitted by the Parties and the synthesis report.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on reporting requirements.

Documentation

Synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/5)

Draft decision II/1 on reporting requirements (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/L.3)

(b) Compliance mechanism

Timing: Thursday, 3 July, 4:45–5:30 p.m.

The Chair of the Compliance Committee will report on the Committee's activities since the first session of the Meeting of the Parties.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to take note of the Chair's report.

The Meeting of the Parties is also expected to elect the Compliance Committee members.

Documentation

Reports of the first and second meetings of the Compliance Committee (ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2011/2 and ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2014/2)

Note on Membership of the Compliance Committee (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2013/5)

5. Programme of work and operation of the Protocol

(a) Implementation of the work programme for 2011–2014

Timing: Thursday, 3 July, 5:30–6 p.m.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the implementation of the Protocol's current work programme on the basis of a report prepared by the secretariat.

Documentation

Report on the implementation of the work programme of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2011–2014 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/6)

(b) Strategic plan for 2015–2020

Timing: Friday, 4 July, 10–10:45 a.m.

Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt the draft decision on the strategic plan for 2015–2020.

Documentation

Draft decision II/2 on the strategic plan for 2015–2020 for the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/L.2)

(c) Work programme for 2015–2017

Timing: Friday, 4 July, 10:45–11:30 a.m. (11:30–11:50 a.m. — coffee break)

Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt the draft decision on the work programme for 2015–2017.

Documentation

Draft decision II/3 on the work programme for 2015–2017 for the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/L.4)

(d) Financial arrangements

Timing: Friday, 4 July, 11:50 a.m.–12:40 p.m.

Delegations will be invited to make pledges to support implementation of the work programme. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on financial arrangements.

Documentation

Draft decision II/4 on financial arrangements under the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/L.5)

6. Election of officers and other members of the Bureau

Timing: Friday, 4 July, 12:40–1 p.m.

The Meeting of the Parties is expected to elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting in accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure (see ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.2, decision I/1, annex). It also expected that the Meeting of the Parties will elect the remaining members of the Bureau from among the representatives of the Parties in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure. In addition, pursuant to the paragraph 3 of decision I/1, non-governmental organizations are expected to appoint representatives to attend the meetings of the Bureau, as observers.

7. Date and venue of the third ordinary session

Timing: Friday, 4 July, 3–3:10 p.m.

The Meeting of the Parties is expected to consider the options with respect to the date and venue of its third ordinary session, having regard to the requirement under article 17 of the Protocol that ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties are to be held sequentially with

or parallel to ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, unless otherwise decided by the Parties to the Protocol.

8. Any other business

Timing: Friday, 4 July, 3:10–3:15 p.m.

Delegations wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

9. Review and adoption of decisions

Timing: Friday, 4 July, 3:15–3:45 p.m.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review and adopt the draft decisions referred to under the preceding agenda items, amending them as necessary.

10. Closure of the meeting

Timing: Friday, 4 July, 3:45–4 p.m.

Following the adoption of decisions by the Meeting of the Parties, the Chair will officially close the meeting.